A LITTLE BIT OF LUXURY

Former tennis coach Tony Smith's The Quilted Velvet Garden has a sunken bed of soft lavender, busy Lizzies, a contrast to yuccas, palms and cordylines, and a comfortable seating area with cushions. He says to create a little bit of luxury in your own garden, you can: "Plant a few large drifts of species rather than lots of dots. Don't be afraid to mix shrubs, perennials and bedding in the same bed or border. Try a contrast of soft bedding plants with something dramatic like yucca."

